

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

State Affairs

By
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Inability of the state and its numerous political subdivisions to take advantage of present low interest rates by refunding outstanding bonds is costing the taxpayers of Oregon millions of dollars, according to State Treasurer Holman.

Holman blames this situation on the policy of issuing noncallable bonds and will attempt to correct this situation by sponsoring a measure before the forthcoming legislature authorizing all bonding units to issue callable bonds in the future.

Not only is it impossible to refund bond issues at lower interest rates under the present policy but it is also impossible to call in these counties and school districts which are in position to reduce their debt burden. Many of those subdivisions, Holman points out, find themselves in somewhat the same position as the state with substantial cash balances lying idle in local banks drawing little or no interest.

Holman calls attention to an additional danger arising out of this situation, that "accumulated funds for bond retirement may be diverted or lost or injudiciously invested, with the result that the taxpayers again may have to provide the funds with which to liquidate the indebtedness."

Accession of the Duke and Duchess of York to the British throne last week recalled to Governor Martin the fact that he had entertained the royal pair on their visit to the Panama canal zone ten years ago. The governor at that time was in command of the American troops in Panama and the Duke and Duchess were on their way from England to Australia to open the new parliament house at Canberra. The governor describes the royal pair as "most charming English young people entirely lacking in any of the haughtiness or restraint generally ascribed to the aristocracy. Governor Martin predicts that George VI. will make an excellent king while Queen Elizabeth has already won a place in the hearts of her subjects."

Compulsory arbitration of labor disputes is favored by Governor Martin who is expected to sponsor a measure before the forthcoming legislature looking to this end. Appearance of the measure, however, can be expected to draw the vigorous opposition of labor representatives in the House and the Senate although it will probably receive the support of members from agricultural and horticultural communities whose constituents are now feeling the pinch of the long drawn out maritime strike.

A "material improvement" in the state's financial condition is noted by State Treasurer Holman in his biennial report, just off the press. On December 31, 1932, the general fund had a deficit of \$3,924,011, the report points out. By March 28, 1934, the fund was back on a cash basis and on June 30, 1936, the fund showed a credit balance of \$5,697,390. On June 30, 1936, cash in the treasury department to the credit of all state funds amounted to \$10,811,600.20. Checking accounts totalling \$1,449,852.52 not allocable to any particular fund brought the state's cash total as of June 30 up to \$12,261,452.73.

Increased cost of supplies and the necessity for renting temporary quarters for the legislature may contribute to make the forthcoming session the most expensive in the state's history, according to Secretary of State Snell. So far the 1931 session holds the record. That session cost the taxpayers \$134,811.30. The 1933 session cost \$102,172.05 and the 1935 session cost \$116,572.80. Clerks and stenographers on the House payroll at the 1935 session drew \$38,278 while employees at the same session drew \$21,644.60. The printing bill for the 1935 session amounted to \$18,602.09, stationery and supplies, \$5162.45, and postage, \$3,883.33.

Social and welfare activities financed by the state account for 53 percent of the budgeted total which will be presented to the legislature for appropriations out of the general fund. That is of the \$13,868,177 in budget requests which Budget Director Wharton has approved \$7,462,041 represents expenditures for maintenance of

National 4-H Champion



H. Clayton Fox of Imbler, Oregon, recently named as the outstanding 4-H club boy in the United States and winner of the large Moses trophy. This is the fourth time in the past 10 years that Oregon club members have won this high national honor.

Sermonette By Rev. Mitchelmore Local Pastor

A white trader in Africa, described by Basil Mathews, student of world trends and races, hired several natives to carry his equipment. As these carriers took up their packs the head man asked for God's guidance. The white man began to laugh. Pointing to his rifle he announced that it was his god. When it was fired it became the word of God. The native dropped their loads and fled. Later the head man explained to Mr. Mathews that his men would not make a journey if God were not with them.

Africa has no monopoly on men and women living dependent upon their own strength and material success. We have them in Oregon. We have them in Sherman county. Many Americans have exchanged God's Word—the Bible—for a rifle, or a plow, or a profession, or a business. Yet the Bible is the only sure picture album of human life in action. It paints each character in his true light. Here is portrayed the white trader's double. Here one finds men with the faith displayed by the African carriers. Within its covers are dreamers and practical men, the wise and the foolish, lives seized with magnificent obsessions and lives plagued and weird diabolical philosophies. Always two classes—those so sure in their self-made nooks, and those placing their loyalty in a higher power—the power of God.

We have called the United States a Christian nation. It is time the American people dust off the Bible that in many cases are little more than house gods. It is time we for the Bible was ever a volume of proof texts defending certain peculiar teachings. It is time we, the American people, open our Bibles and read again and again the way to abundant life and true happiness—a way of life unknown to most people.

Payment of Taxes Will Help County

The Pacific Coast and the Oregon-Washington Joint Stock land banks will pay up the current taxes and one quarter of the oldest delinquent year on all lands held or controlled by them in this county according to a recent announcement from the sheriff's office. This will bring in around \$10,000 to the county.

Weather Remains Dry In Midwinter

And the weather it was dry, might well be the meteorological history of the past week. After a start of moisture Jupe Pluvius retired to doing his Christmas shopping and lost interest in his job which is providing Christmas possibilities for the inhabitants of the earth. No rainfall of any kind came to Sherman county during the week although nearly every day was such as to raise hopes in breasts used to watching in vain.

Soil Conservation Plan Held In Final Process of Change

Regulations Expected When Leaders Return From Capitol; Oregon's Payment Per Acre Dropped To Nine Dollars

With the framework of the 1937 agricultural conservation program officially announced at Washington, D. C., farm operators in Oregon are now awaiting detailed interpretation of the plan in the light of Oregon conditions which will be available as soon as official representatives from this state return from the national conference.

Work Thought Speeded

Meanwhile the state soil depletion crew base for the 1936 program has been definitely approved at Washington, and state and county officials have supplied each county with its final base figures. From these individual applications can now go forward with little delay. Significant among the changes made in the 1937 program is provision for some crop control to be applied to corn. This is to be accomplished by setting an acreage quota for each farm which comes under the soil conservation provisions of the new program. National AAA officials announced that this is needed to prevent the corn acreage far out of line under the stimulus of high prices which followed last year's extremely short crop.

The new crop will include both diversion and soil building payments again, but with the latter given more emphasis. An average of \$9 an acre for diversion instead of \$10 has been set and it will be handled on a somewhat different basis. Of the \$9, \$6 will be applied directly to diverted acreage up to 15 per cent, while \$3 will be paid for definite additions to the soil conserving acreage above the 15 per cent. This, in effect, serves to add the \$3 to total soil building practice payments.

Range Program Included

The range improvement program is continued, but with payments lowered from \$2 to \$1.50 per animal unit of carrying capacity. Producers of sizeable acreages of permanent pasture, as well as others whose farms are now largely in soil conserving crops, will have an opportunity for additional participation. The minimum allowance per farm, regardless of size, has been raised from \$10 to \$20 this year, and provision has been made for more benefits for vegetable and fruit growers who carry out soil building practices. It is believed that last year's base acreage determinations may be used again, thus eliminating much of the detailed work necessary in carrying out the present program.

W.H.S. Basketball Schedule Given

The schedule of basketball games for the Wasco High School has been announced. In addition to playing a full series of games in the Sherman county league the two teams will engage outside teams in contest before the end of the season March 1.

Tonight, Dec. 18, the teams will play Grass Valley for two games, boys and girls, and Saturday night the same teams will play Mosier two games.

January 8, the boy's team will play St. Mary's at Wasco, January 15 Rufus at Rufus, January 22 Moro at Wasco, January 23 Mosier at Mosier, January 29 Kent teams will come to Wasco, January 30 the boys will go to Maupin for another outside game. February 5 Grass Valley will be played at Grass Valley. February 19 Rufus teams will come to Wasco and the 28th Moro will be set at Moro. Local games will all be double headers.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

DATE	MAX	MIN	PRECIP
Dec. 10	47	25	.00
" 11	46	26	.00
" 12	44	26	.00
" 13	52	30	.00
" 14	47	33	.00
" 15	43	35	.00
" 16	44	23	.00
Total for week			.00



GIRLS who have earned rank of "Golden Eaglets" who are attending the University of Oregon this year are shown here. Much interest in scouting and scout work for girls has been stimulated with the national Girl Scout week. A majority of the girls are from Eugene. They are, front row, left to right, Elizabeth Onthank, Louise Pursley, Margaret Reid, Jean Mae Laren, all of Eugene; Claire Shanks, Lebanon, Constance Lush, Ontario. Second row, Ruth Endicott, Edna Carlsen, Betty Jane Thompson, Mergilee Morse, and Jean Martin all of Eugene; last row, Elizabeth Stetson, Maxine Horton, both of Eugene; Jean Merrill, Albany; Jane Hall, Eugene, and Mullanne Fortmiller, Albany. (Wiltshire engraving.)

George Meloy Is Buried In The Dalles

George A. Meloy, who had been a resident of Sherman county for years, was buried in The Dalles Saturday following his death at the home of his son, George near Rowena.

The deceased was born in Pennsylvania November 24, 1862 of Irish parentage. When he was 19 years old he came to Oregon and lived for a number of years in Wasco county around Tygh Valley. He moved to this county permanently in 1899 and has lived here since until his recent removal to Rowena.

November 24, 1894 he was married to Nellie Elliott, who survives him. Surviving children are George, at Rowena and Katie who lives in California. Always a faithful attendant at Masonic lodge his funeral services were conducted by that order with friends from the Moro lodge taking leading parts.

KENT NEWS

The Home Economics Club sponsored their third card party at the grange hall Saturday evening December 12th. Thirteen tables were in play. Those from out of town were: Mr. and Mrs. Verne Duus, Mr. and Mrs. V. Bolton, Mr. and Mrs. Bonney Rooper and Wayne Hill of Antelope; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reese and son Adelbert of Shaniko; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kock, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Rolfe, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wells, Mrs. Leghorn and Wallace May of Grass Valley and Dr. Virgo Haufelt and Mrs. Haufelt of Wasco.

The Sunday schools of the county are to meet at Kent Sunday December 20th for a Sunday School Rally, pot luck dinner at noon served in the Kent grange hall and an afternoon session at the church at 2:30 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Neff McGlasson were dinner guests at the J. L. Davis home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilson and daughters Dorothy and Connie of Oakesdale, Wn., arrived at Kent Saturday evening where they will visit the J. M. Wilson family and other relatives for several days.

Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson was taken to The Dalles Tuesday for medical attention, where it was found necessary to operate for appendicitis. Mrs. Wilson remained there until Saturday and returned home. Last reports are to the effect that Helen is doing nicely.

Frank Haynes of Philomath was transacting business at Kent Thursday.

Joe Gregg of Redmond was a business visitor at Kent Tuesday. Joe is driving a new Nash 8 these days.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sather and son Kenneth were all day guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cox at Grass Valley.

Kent Grange No. 688 held its regular meeting all day Saturday December 12. Seventeen members were present. Potluck dinner was served at noon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hoyer were dinner guests at the J. C. Wilson house Sunday.

River Hearing Brings Out Many Varied Opinions

High Dam Still Advocated By Some Districts Along River

A hearing before Colonel Thomas M. Robins, division engineer of the U. S. army, held in The Dalles Tuesday was attended by a crowd that filled the circuit court room of the Wasco county court house.

The Inland Empire Waterways association offered a program which, if adopted would allow the army engineers to plan dams at any point on the river that seems most feasible to them and would give universal support to the program of the engineers without permitting community sentiment or prejudice to influence the decision.

Some of the up-river men who have long been pledged to the construction of the Umatilla rapids dam insisted that it should be built first.

Electric Power Wanted

A delegation from Portland asked that a high dam be built a short distance above The Dalles. This plan was in favor some months ago when men from The Dalles visualized a 450 structure near the lower Celilo canal entrance that would back water clear up to the mouth of the Snake and flood the bottom land for miles. With the decline in interest for more electric power at this time, those working for river development have changed their interest and now desire navigation facilities more than power.

Fish Men Protest

A group interested in fisheries asked that no dams be built on the upper river at all or until the effect of Bonneville dam could be told as regards the supply of salmon.

Col. Robins will make his report as soon as possible and it will be sent to congress during the session that will convene in January. The national rivers and harbors committee will consider it and any action that is taken will come from it.

Camp Work To Be Halted Briefly

The work of the OCC camp will be quieted during the Christmas season for each boy will be allowed three days on short trips for the vacation. It is permissible for them to take the time either at Christmas or at New Years and many are expected to choose the latter day as it is pay day and holidays are hard to manage with out funds. Officers of the SCS will nearly all leave camp the day before Christmas and be gone for the remainder of the week although the required number will stay to handle the work. Olaf Anderson will go to his home in Grants Pass for the holiday.

Final Payment Being Made On Allotment Plan

Distribution of \$162,092.40

Going On From County Agent's Office As Growers Call For Welcome Slips of Paper

Farmers this week have been coming to Moro, driving up the hill to the court house, climbing up the stairs to the court room where well worn documents are reposing. There Miss Pauline Davis or Dewey Thompson search through piles of official looking government checks in the familiar mottled green and, after finding one bearing the name and number of the visitor, obtain his signature on the margin of a large and well thumbed sheet and hand over the check, thus completing the final transaction of a bargain made years ago between the farmers and the government.

Big Payment Received

Given to the wheat growers of Sherman county this week are the final checks of the AAA period of American agriculture. They are for compliance with governmental wishes for 1936.

Last Saturday morning \$162,092.40 was received from Washington by the county agent and his assistant and this has been distributed rapidly since that time. About forty checks did not come and will be awaited with intense interest by those waiting for them.

It is anticipated that the soil conservation payments will arrive sometime in January and this will add between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to the income of Sherman county farmers.

AAA Brings Over Million

During the life of the triple A, including this payment from the grave, Sherman county farmers have received \$1,200,000 in checks from the government for reduction of wheat acreage. It came during a time of poor crops, surpluses, (diminishing but still potent,) and therefore low prices.

With the passing out of the last check for 1936 payment there will be an end to the AAA in this county, and of crop reduction under that name.

State Marshal Warns Against Xmas Fires

State Fire Marshal Hugh H. Earle, being deeply concerned with regard to the possibilities of death, personal injury or property damage due to fire caused by the many hazards introduced in the homes and places of public assemblage in carrying out the spirit of the holiday season, has issued the following statement: "Our records show that almost every year joyful occasions have been turned to sorrow, suffering or periods of regret because of some careless practice or lack of serious thought on the part of responsible individuals. Each year many warnings have been published and many sound and safe rules have been suggested with respect to decorations, the selection of toys and the installation of Christmas trees. These rules are all very reasonable and will be obvious to anyone who will seriously consider the common fire hazards associated with Yuletide.

It may be felt, by some of those who do not have electric service, that some of the rules are an infringement on the rights of individuals or act as a damper to the full enjoyment of the occasion. A realization of the hazards, even though they are permitted to exist but are handled with due care, will largely remove the chances for serious consequences. We urge that you bear in mind that highly inflammable materials, such as the customary Christmas tree, celluloid toys, cotton, crepe paper, etc., in close proximity to heat or to open flames, such as candles, stoves and fire places are natural causes which may turn your joyful holiday into a most depressing period."

Although Land Bank loans are written on the amortization plan to be paid off a little at a time over a long period of years, mortgage notes totalling nearly \$700,000 have been completely liquidated during the past nine months and an additional million and a third dollars have been applied to cut down the principal of outstanding loans.

With farm income up this year and interest charges down, the Land bank has urged farmer-borrowers to seize this favorable opportunity to get loans in good current standing and make payments in advance whenever possible, for which a special discount is allowed.

George Bourhill returned this week from Portland where he has been for medical treatment for several days.